

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAA-01 SSO-00

INRE-00 NEAE-00 IO-13 EUR-12 AF-10 TRSE-00 OMB-01

NRC-05 DOE-15 DOEE-00 SOE-02 OES-09 HA-05 SSM-03

/136 W

-----047678 251340Z /44

O 251206Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO USICA IMMEDIATE

INFO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2830

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

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USICA

DEPT FOR ACDA ALSO

FOR NSC/PUTNAM

STATE/PM/PALMER

DOD/ISA/THOMPSON

DOD/JCS/VAN ALLEN

ACDA/HALSTED

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: NA

SUBJECT: DISARMAMENT

REF: USICA 15297

1. POST REGRETS DELAY IN REPLY. RECENT VISITS BY THREE
STATE DEPT. OFFICIALS FULLY OCCUPIED OFFICERS INVOLVED IN
ANSWERING QUESTIONAIRE.

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2. SECTION I: PUBLICS CONCERNED WITH ARMS CONTROL/
FOREMOST IN THIS CATEGORY WOULD BE THE KING, ROYAL MEMBERS
OF THE SAUDI CABINET, NOTABLY CROWN PRINCE FAHD, 2ND
DEPUTY PREMIER AND COMMANDER OT THE NATIONAL GUARDS PRINCE
ABDULLA, MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION PRINCE
SULTAN, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRINCE SAUD,

AND ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF LT. GEN. OTHMAN AL-HAMID. GOVERNMENT POLICY, PARTICULARLY ON DEFENSE MATTERS, IS NOT PROFOUNDLY AFFECTED BY PUBLIC OPINION IN SAUDI ARABIA. THE KING, CROWN PRINCE, AND KEY MINISTERS (E.G. SHEIKH YAMANI) FORMULATE DEFENSE POLICY. NEWSPAPERS, TELEVISION AND RADIO, REPORT ON, BUT DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN POLICY FORMULATION. THERE ARE SEVERAL LOCAL BUSINESSMEN, E.G. ADNAN KHASHOGGI, GHAITH PHARAON, EXTENSIVELY INTERCONNECTED WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY ON FINANCIAL MATTERS. POLICY CONCERNING THE ACQUISITION OF ARMS COULD BE INFLUENCED BY SUCH INDIVIDUALS.

SECTION II: MAIN ARMS CONTROL ISSUES: THE MAIN ARMS CONTROL CONCERN OF THE AFOREMENTIONED PUBLIC IS WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS THE SOVIET MILITARY BUILDUP TAKING PLACE ALL AROUND THEM, AND THE TRANSFER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TO SUCH STATES AS PDRY. THE KINGDOM ALSO APPARENTLY WANTS TO KEEP ITS OPTIONS OPEN IN REGARD TO NUCLEAR ENERGY AND BELIEVES SIGNING THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY WOULD HINDER ITS ABILITY TO EXERCISE THAT OPTION. FEAR THAT ISRAEL MAY HAVE NUCLEAR CAPABILITY IS ALSO PART OF THIS ASSESSMENT. SAUDI SUPPORT OF THE IRAQI RESOLUTION AT THE RECENT SSOD UNDERLINES THEIR PERCEPTION THAT THE U.S. IS NOT NECESSARILY INTERESTED IN DISARMAMENT OR LIMITING CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER WHEN IT COME TO ISRAEL. THIS PERCEIVED DOUBLE STANDARD, MITIGATED GREATLY BY THE MORE EVEN-HANDED APPROACH USED IN THE F-15 SALE, UNDERLIES MUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE SAUDI SKEPTICISM CONCERNING U.S. DISARMAMENT INITIATIVES.

SECTION III: DEGREE OF INTEREST IN DISAMAMENT

TOPICS:

A - MEDIUM

B - MEDIUM

C - INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION

D - LOW

E - LOW

F - HIGH

G - HIGH

H - MEDIUM

I - LOW

J - INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION

K - INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION

SECTION IV: HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONNAIRE: FOLLOWING KEY USED FOR SIMPLICITY'S SAKE:

1 - STRONGLY AGREE; 2-AGREE WITH RESERVATIONS;

3 - OPINION ABOUT EQUALLY DIVIDED; 4- DISAGREE WITH RESERVATIONS; 5-STRONGLY DISAGREE;

6- INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION:

A-2 (ISRAEL)
B-5 (YEMEN; AFGHANISTAN)
C-4 (NAVAL STRENGTH IN INDIAN OCEAN)
D-1
E-5 (ARGUMENTS RE NEED FOR F-15)
F-3 (SOVIET NAVY)
G-3 (U.S. GENERALLY PERCEIVED AS TECHNICALLY SUPERIOR)
H-3
I-3
J-3 (S.A. DIDN'T SIGN LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY)
K-2 (SUCH WARHEAD WOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE OIL INSTALLA-
TIONS, REFINERIES, ETC.)
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L-3 (TOO MUCH RED TAPE; TOO SLOW; TOO MUCH TRAINING REQUIRED
CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL)
M-2
N-1
O-5 (AGAIN REFER TO ARGUMENTS MARSHALLED RE F-15)
P-4 (WOULD NOT VIEW TREATMENT OF WOMEN OR PUNISH-
MENT SUCH AS FLOGGING IN S.A. AS VIOLATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS - CONSISTENT WITH KORANIC LAW)
Q-6
R-6
S-1
T-1 (ISRAEL)
U-4
V-5
W-5 (SAUDIS PREFER BEHIND-THE-SCENES MANEUVERING TO OVERT
INVOLVMENT)
X-5 (SUI GENERIS)
Y-5 (CURRENT MACHINERY INCAPABLE OF HALTING SOVIETS
IN AFRICA; UN RELATIVELY INEFFECTUAL IN LEBANON)

SECTION V: OTHER OPINION SURVEYS: TO POST'S KNOWLEDGE,
OPINION SURVEYS ARE RARELY CARRIED OUT IN THE KINGDOM,
ESPECIALLY ON POLITICAL MATTERS.

SECTION VI: METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION: SECTIONS III AND
IV WERE CIRCULATED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO DEAL DIRECTLY
WITH SAUDIS. SURVEY WAS COMPLICATED BY NUMBER OF OFFICERS
ON LEAVE, E.G. CPAO, DPAO, AND RECENT TRANSFER OF POLITICAL-
MILITARY OFFICER. ALSO VISITS OF STATE DEPT. OFFICIALS
HEWSOM, COOPER AND ATHERTON PRECLUDED OR CONSUMED MUCH OF
THE OFFICERS' TIME. LOCALS IN THE PRESS AND TRANSLATION
SECTION WERE QUERIED, BUT THEY ARE NOT INDIGINOUS SAUDIS.
MANY SAUDI OFFICIALS WHO MIGHT HAVE INFORMALLY PARTICIPATED
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IN SURVEY ARE OUT OF TOWN OR BUSY WITH VISITORS AND
GOVERNMENT'S MOVE TO TAIF. UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE
EARLY JUNE. HENCE IT WAS NOT A PROPITIOUS TIME FOR
QUESTIONNAIRE, AND INFORMATION ONLY RELATIVELY RELIABLE.
DALGLIESH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1898480
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISARMAMENT
TAGS: PARM, SA
To: ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8bc3676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Declassified/Released
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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